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United States Navy
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SPAWAR ITC Holds Change of Command Ceremony

By Maria LoVasco Tolleson, SPAWAR ITC PAO

CAPT Fred Mingo, Jr., USNR, assumed command of the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command Information Technology Center (SPAWAR ITC) on 20 July in a ceremony that took place under the blazing sun of a New Orleans summer day.

He assumes command from CAPT Peggy A. Feldmann who served as the SPAWAR ITC's first military commanding officer for less than a year. She leaves prematurely due to her being personally selected to work as the Command Information Officer for CNO N1, Manpower and Personnel.

RADM Ken Slaght, SPAWAR Commander, served as the guest speaker.

"I am pleased that the confidence and trust we placed in her has been borne out by her actions and leadership over the past year," Slaght said. "She has done a great job and achieved a great deal in a very short period of time."

He cited her efforts in support of Sea Warrior 21, one tenant of the CNO's Sea Power 21 operating philosophy.

"To help achieve that goal here in New Orleans, CAPT Feldmann realigned and reorganized departments thus promoting the efficiencies the Navy is looking for, while at the same time increasing the best use of the many talents of our employees. Through her efforts, the command is much better positioned to be a positive enabler in Sea Warrior," he said.



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He stated that Feldmann took over command during a critical time when the SPAWAR ITC was undergoing two A-76 studies and overseeing a major support contract re-competition.

"I know you will bring the same enthusiasm and leadership to your responsibilities as CIO in the OPNAV Manpower and Personnel shop, and I know you will do great things for them," he said.

He welcomed CAPT Mingo aboard stating that the Naval Reserve units that support SPAWAR are true patriots and outstanding professionals.

"I have held the Naval Reserve community in very high esteem for many years," he said. "They have provided invaluable support, technical experience and great problem solving skills to SPAWAR for many years."

He cited the Naval Reserve's work prior to the new millennium in staffing the command center and tracking systems all over the world as the Y2K hour approached. "I am proud to report that there were no system failures across the Navy on that history making night," he said.

He warned Mingo that he intended to take full advantage of his technical qualifications and backgrounds, "including that Masters Degree from the Naval Postgraduate School," he said. "Your 'hands-on' experience in the Information Technology arena will be very welcome at the SPAWAR ITC."

He closed by stating that the command was fortunate to have leaders like Feldmann and Mingo as part of the team.

Prior to CAPT Feldmann making remarks, Slaght awarded her the Legion of Merit for her accomplishments as Commanding Officer of the SPAWAR ITC.

Feldmann thanked family and friends who traveled from Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin and Colorado to be with her.



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“I’d just like to say a few words of thanks to all the people who have contributed over the last year to making the ITC a better place to work, and a better organization to support our service members at sea and ashore,” she said.

“We’ve had some great moments over the last year,” she said. “NOWS winning the e-Gov award, the command winning the NMCI Command Excellence award, the smooth transition of the DIMRHS contractor, Northrop Grumman, into SPAWAR ITC spaces, working the legacy migration issues, the list goes on and on, “ she said.

She recognized CDR Scott Langley the Executive Officer, who is on loan from the Naval Reserve, citing him as a ‘dream XO’. “Not only is he working as an XO, but I also tasked him as our lead NMCI coordinator,” she said. Langley served as the master of ceremonies for the change of command.

“And Dennis Pigg as the Executive Director, who has been a true inspiration – coming into work each day and getting the job done,” she said, “not just as the Executive Director for the SPAWAR ITC, but also as the Program Manager for NSIPS – each one a full time job.”

She also thanked CAPT Mingo for coming in on short notice to take on the responsibility of commanding officer. “I think the stars are lined up for all of us to make a big impact for our sponsors,” she said.

Her remarks were followed by the time honored Navy tradition of the reading of the orders. After Mingo read his orders he relieved CAPT Feldmann, who replied, “I stand relieved”.

Mingo was then introduced to the crowd of more than 300 attendees as the Commanding Officer, SPAWAR ITC.

“Just four short months ago if you had asked me where I would be on July 20th, I would have never thought it would be taking command of the SPAWAR ITC,” he said. He thanked several mentors and associates who he credited with contributing directly to



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his personal growth, and with the successes and accomplishments of the Navy's Reserve Component Information Management / Information Technology Team.

"CAPT Feldmann, in just one year you have truly changed the SPAWAR ITC for the better, as recognized by your Legion of Merit Award," he said. "We all owe you a debt of gratitude for your vision and leadership. The SPAWAR ITC future is extremely bright and promising, as the Central Design Agency for Navy Manpower and Personnel IT systems."

"Today we are again at war fighting an enemy intent upon changing our society and limiting our freedom, but we will prevail," he said. "The sailors, civilians and contractors working here at the SPAWAR ITC are actively supporting this fight and our war fighters and sailors around the world, 24 / 7, 365 days a year. The SPAWAR ITC's products and services are vital to our most important resource in this fight. Today we directly support the administration, and therefore the pay, of every sailor in the United States Navy. Moreover in development within this complex is the Defense Integrated Manpower and Human Resource System or DIMHRS, which will soon consolidate all administration and pay requirements for all service members in the Department of Defense," he said.

"The society we leave for our children tomorrow will be supported by and dependent upon the work performed here at the SPAWAR ITC," he said. "This is a weighty responsibility that will take speed, agility and determination and one that the SPAWAR ITC team is ready and honored to accept."

In attendance at the ceremony were RADM John Debbout, Commander of Naval Reserve Forces; Mr. Steve Erhler, Program Executive Officer, PEO-IT; CAPT Anthony Rizzo, Commanding Officer of Naval Air Station New Orleans; VADM (ret) Dan Oliver, Chief of Naval Personnel, Manpower and Personnel; MG (ret) David Mize, former Commanding General of Marine Forces Reserve; RADM (ret) J.D. Olson, former



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Commander, Naval Air Reserve Force, and several vice chancellors from the University of New Orleans.

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